(c) if so, when the decision was taken and what is the time schedule for each of the projects; and

(d) the details of the fund allotted for it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Questions do not arise.

Feasibility of double-decker trains

3173. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the feasibility of running double-decker trains; and

(b) whether Government has consulted the experts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Non-airconditioned double decker coaches are already running on Indian Railways.

In the Railway Budget 2009-10, introduction of high capacity airconditioned double decker coaches having superior riding quality and comfort for intercity travel has been announced. The design of such coaches has been taken up by the Indian Railways and expert opinion/assistance shall be obtained, if considered necessary at any stage.

Development of Surat-Hazira railway line

3174. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the planning of Ministry of Railways/RVNL to develop Surat-Hazira railway line;

(b) what is the status regarding financial contribution among different stakeholders/ companies for this project;

(c) whether Government contemplates to allocate more funds to RVNL; and

(d) as it is technically feasible to integrate this section as a part of dedicated freight corridor between Mumbai-Delhi, what is the planning of Ministry of Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Surat-Hazira new line is a port connectivity project which was handed over to Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL), a PSU under Ministry of Railways, for further development. On being approached by RVNL, Government of Gujarat *vide* resolution No. GID-102007-1213-G dated 10.06.2009 has finalised the alignment of Surat-Hazira rail line project. To review the progress of the implementation of this project and to facilitate fast implementation, Government of Gujarat has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Government of Gujarat. RVNL is working out the cost of the finalised alignment and its bankability and will process the case for sanctioning of the project.

(b) Financial contribution among different stakeholders/companies will be decided on completion of the project development and establishment of its bankability. Presently

Government of Gujarat, Essar Steel Ltd. and Hazira Port Pvt. Ltd. has shown interest in equity participation.

(c) At present an amount of Rs. 1420.00 crore has been provided for RVNL in Railway Budget 2009-10 for various projects of RVNL.

(d) Surat-Hazira railway line has been identified as a feeder route to the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC).

Laying of new rail lines and extension of existing lines

3175. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with the Railways to lay new rail lines or to extend the present ones in the near future;

(b) if so, whether survey for the same have been carried out or are proposed to be done; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, indicating the time by when work would be completed and new/extended rail lines would become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Development of railways including construction of new lines or extension of the existing lines is a continuous process. A large number of new railway line projects have been taken up across the country which on completion would add about 10,900 km to the rail network. These projects have been taken up after conducting required surveys. Time of completion of the projects depends on availability of resources and other factors.

Laying of new rail lines in North Eastern Railway

†3176. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey was conducted to lay new rail line between Khalilabad and Bansi, Dumariyaganj and between Utarola and Balrampur under North-Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, whether any action is being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) A survey for construction of new line between Khalilabad and Balrampur *via* Bansi Dumariaganj and Utarola was completed in 1979-80. The construction of proposed new line was not taken up.

Railway projects in Kerala

3177. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects declared and funds sanctioned for railway projects in Kerala during the last 3 years;

(b) the details of projects completed and projects pending;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.